VZCZCXRO3890 RR RUEHAP RUEHMR RUEHPB DE RUEHLO #0211/01 0231735 ZNR UUUUU ZZH R 231735Z JAN 09 FM AMEMBASSY LONDON TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1165 RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0832 RUEHBH/AMEMBASSY NASSAU 0194 RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0248 RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN 0185 RUEHBE/AMEMBASSY BELMOPAN 0011 RUEHOR/AMEMBASSY GABORONE 0097 RUEHBD/AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN 0051 RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE 0138 RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 1212 RUEHNC/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 0495 RUEHJL/AMEMBASSY BANJUL 0062 RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 0441 RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN 0065 RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 0848 RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON 0245 RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 0438 RUEHMR/AMEMBASSY MASERU 0045 RUEHLG/AMEMBASSY LILONGWE 0039 RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0197 RUEHVT/AMEMBASSY VALLETTA 0155 RUEHPL/AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS 0134 RUEHTO/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO 0065 RUEHWD/AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK 0061 RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0269 RUEHUJA/AMEMBASSY ABUJA 0603 RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 0933 RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 0030 RUEHAP/AMEMBASSY APIA 0009 RUEHFN/AMEMBASSY FREETOWN 0191 RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 0273 RUEHSA/AMEMBASSY PRETORIA 0680 RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 0163 RUEHMB/AMEMBASSY MBABANE 0044 RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM 0152 RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN 0093 RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 0183 RUEHLS/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 0111 RUEHSV/AMEMBASSY SUVA 0026 UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 000211

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DEPT FOR S/ES-CR, S/ES-O, AND EUR/WE

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OPDC PREL OVIP PGOV UK

SUBJ: CONGRATULATORY LETTER FROM COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-GENERAL TO

PRESIDENT OBAMA

The Commonwealth Secretary-General, Kamalesh Sharma, sent the following congratulatory message to President Obama, a copy of which was sent to post and dated January 21. The original letter was sent to the White House.

Text of Commonwealth Secretary-General Sharma's letter to President Obama:

BEGIN TEXT

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Nations, and on my own behalf, I write to offer my warmest congratulations on your assumption of office as the 44th President of the United States of America.

Your election to the Presidency last November was a resounding affirmation of America's commitment to the democratic process and powers of renewal. It was equally a tribute to your inspirational qualities of leadership and what you represent to the hopes and aspirations of millions. You take up office at a time of daunting challenges. We are confident that, with your belief in collective approaches to global problems, your leadership will transform them into new hope and opportunities for the world community.

We are particularly proud of your links with Kenya - and therefore with the Commonwealth. The United States and the Commonwealth share many fundamental values and objectives based on democracy and freedoms, and I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with your Administration to promote them.

Please accept, Mr. President, my best wishes in the task ahead as you commence your term in office, and the assurances of my respect and highest consideration.

With high regards, /s/ Kamalesh Sharma

HE Mr. Barack Hussein Obama President of the United States of America The White House Washington DC USA

END TEXT

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